1	2	3	4
2.	Industrial Counselling Tanneries-II (Kanpur)	The Netherlands	Under consideration of the Netherlands Govt.
3.	Gomti Action Plan at Lucknow (Phase II of the assistance)	Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom ODA (UK)	Exact time would be known after March 1997
4.	Pollution Abatement in the Coastal Stretches of Madras City	European Economic Community (EEC)	Under consideration of the European Economic Community (EEC)

[English]

Medicine Scam

*526. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item, appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated August 9, 1996 under the caption 'Rs. 4 cr. medicine scam in Tihar Jail'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inspector General (Prisons), Delhi had ordered an inquiry into the procurement, stocking and issue of medicines in the Central Jail, Tihar during the year 1994-95. The Committee set up for the purpose detected irregularities in the overall management of medicines in the Jail. The irregularities relate, inter-alia, to understating the cost of medicines proposed to be purchased, purchase of medicines when sufficient stocks were available, procurement of medicines of doubtful utility, inflated quantities of medicines shown as issued and purchase of medicines at high prices. The report of the Committee has been forwarded by the Jail authorities to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for appropriate action.

Setting up of Fertilizer Plant

*527. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Oman have signed a joint venture agreement for setting up of a fertilizer plant in October;

(b) the reasons for not undertaking the project earlier as the Memorandum of Understanding for the same was signed two years back;

(c) whether the project will be set up in Oman and the entire output will be purchased by India under a buy back agreement, at the international prices;

(d) the Indian equity in the joint venture;

(e) the role India expect to perform in the project which will produce both urea and ammonia with the participation of KRIBHCO and RCF; and

(f) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India/Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO)/Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and the Government of Sultanate of Oman/Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for setting up of 3500 tonnes per day ammonia and 4400 tonnes per day urea project in Oman. The DFR has been received. The project could not be undertaken because of delays in preparation of the DFR, finalisation of the project agreements and selection of the preferred Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) bidder for setting up the project on Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) basis. These activities have fallen behind schedule because of protracted negotiations between the two sides on the project agreements, delay in appointment of the LSTK consultant, acceptance of the request of EPC bidders for extension of the bid time and resignation of M/s Morgan Stanley as the Financial Advisor to the project, consequent to changes in the management of the Oman Oil Company. Evaluation of the EPC bids had to be deferred till the new Financial Advisor was appointed.

(c) The project is proposed to be set up at Sur in Oman. The entire production of urea is envisaged to be purchased by KRIBHCO/RCF under a buy-back arrangement at the prevailing FOB Oman price.

(d) The equity contribution by each of KRIBHCO and RCF is estimated at US$ 69 million equivalent to about Rs. 242 crores (1 US$ = Rs. 35).

(e) The Indian parties viz. KRIBHCO and RCF will perform three roles in the project, viz. shareholders in the proposed Joint Venture Company; buyers of the entire production of urea and supplier of manpower for major requirements of the Joint Venture Company.

(f) The DFR for the Project has been completed. Various agreements connected with the project have been discussed at different levels and are at an advanced stage of finalisation. The financial packages submitted by EPC bidders are being evaluated with the assistance of the Financial Advisor.

Staff Strength in Railways

*528. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had any plan to reduce the staff strength in the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a decision;

(c) whether the Government have since then reviewed the decision; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The work force of Indian Railways is regulated both in terms of number and their skills so that the Railways are able to build, maintain and operate the system in the most productive manner possible, specially for remaining competitive with other modes of transportation. Owing to changing pattern of traffic and advancement in technology, retraining and redeployment of staff rendered surplus from diminishing activities has to be resorted to, however, no staff has been re-trenched on Indian Railways.

Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary

*529. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI SANAT MEHTA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has reduced the area of the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary in Kutch;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Wildlife Institute in Dehradun had been asked in March to do a Rapid Environmental Survey of the effect of the order of the Gujarat Government;

(d) if so, the findings of the Survey of the Institute alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Legislative Assembly of Gujarat through a Resolution passed on 27.7.95 delimited the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary from its earlier area of 756.79 sq. kms. to 444.23 sq. kms. which was followed by a notification to this effect by the State Government on 9.8.1995. The State Government has stated that this was done to utilise the mineral resources of the denotified area for industrial development of the Kutch District which is underdeveloped.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Institute was asked to do a Rapid Environmental Survey and its report was received just a few days ago.

(d) and (e) The main finding of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun is that the alteration in the boundary of the sanctuary was influenced by industrial development considerations without taking into account all the ecological implications. They have, therefore, recommended a detailed review of the decision. This Ministry has sent the report to the State Government for comments and appropriate action.

Census in Jammu and Kashmir

*530. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:
SHRI P. NAMGYAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the census in Jammu & Kashmir was held and the population of each region at that time;

(b) the reasons for not having census for such a long time;

(c) the date on which the extensive revision of the electoral rolls was undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and the number of electorate at that time and new strength of the electorate after the summary revision in 1996, region-wise;

(d) the date on which the delimitation commission to delimit the existing assembly constituencies was set up and the date on which it submitted its Report;

(e) whether this Report has been challenged in the High Court; and